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## Japan

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Export Certificate Report

2006

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**Report Highlights:**

This report lists major export certificates required by the Japanese government from exporters of food and agricultural products to Japan. For more information on import requirements, see GAIN JA6046.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Tokyo [JA1]  
[JA]

## INTRODUCTION

Japan does not require that many specific export certificates for importation of food. Instead, customs and quarantine officials look at all the documents submitted and if they have questions, may ask for more information if it is needed to verify that the food meets all the relevant laws. New processed products that have never been shipped to Japan before face more scrutiny than those products that have already been sent.

## SECTION I. LIST OF MAIN EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT

	<b>Product(s)</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation Required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
1	Most food products, including, beverages	Notification Form for Importation of Foods, Etc.	Notification of intent to import a food or beverage product.	Notifies quarantine authorities of intent to import food products so that they can determine product testing required	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
2	Fresh and frozen vegetables and fruit, dried fruits and nuts, spices, coffee & black tea	Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate	Attestation to the absence of noxious insects	Mandatory phytosanitary requirement for submission to the plant protection station of a designated port of entry as an attachment to the importer's filing of an application for Import Inspection of Plants and Import-prohibited Articles	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
3	Fresh, frozen and processed meat	Quarantine Inspection Certificate	Attestation to the absence of a risk of the spread of an infectious disease in livestock	Mandatory inspection certificate to be submitted to the Animal Quarantine Service of Japan - Must be issued by the competent government agency of an exporting country for imports of all the meat	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
4	Beef and offals derived from cattle aged 20 months or younger (each accredited export establishment must provide a list of eligible products)	FSIS Form 9060-5	That the documents are complete and that the AMS letter confirms that the export verification (EV) program requirements were met.	Required -To allow beef and offals to be imported into Japan	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries & Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
5	All organic products except organic livestock products and feed	TM-11	Certifies that the product is of U.S. Origin and meets U.S. National Organic Program standards and does not use alkali extracted humic acid, lignin sulfonate, or potassium bicarbonate.	Required for organic products only if product is not already certified as meeting JAS organic standards by recognized Overseas Certification Body	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

6	Rice	"Report of Payment for Importation of Rice, etc." (to be accompanied by invoices)	Proof of payment of fees	Mandatory-To notify the Government of imports outside of the minimum access agreement	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
7	Rice	No specific name	Must certify the that the container does not contain lead or other dangerous substances	Mandatory-This requirement is a result of rice bags with lead levels that violated the Food Sanitation Law in 2002	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
8	Tuna, Shrimp, crab, roe	Certificate of Port Clearance & Tuna Export Certificate (for tuna)	Attestation against illegal fishing operations in the high seas and against illegal fishing trade	Mandatory- to prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and to preserve the world's fish resources	Japan Fisheries Agency and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
9	Tuna roe	Phytosanitary Health Certificate	Attestation to the safety for human consumption	Mandatory - for imports originating in areas with active cholera outbreaks, to prevent the spread of this disease	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
10	Sturgeon roe (caviar)	Export Permit	Attestation to the fact that the shipment is in full compliance with the Appendix II provisions of the Washington Convention for Sturgeon Roe Trade	Protect animal species in danger of extinction, using strict multilateral control on the international trade	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
11	Edible seaweed and other items under an import quota (items vary)	Import License / Import Quota	License showing that quota has been allocated	Mandatory- for the category of dried Nori; Porphyra spp.and another category (including Kombu) are designated as Import Quota items, so import quantities are subject to government control	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
12	New types of processed products imported for the first time	No specific name	Documents (could be more than one) that include detailed information on all ingredients, additives, and the manufacturing process	Required- This information allows the Japanese officials to evaluate a new product's compliance with relevant regulations and standards, such as the Food Sanitation Law.	Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare
13	All products	No specific name	It is strongly recommended that in the event that a product label does not clearly indicate additives, preservatives, coloring, spices or flavorings that a certificate with detailed descriptions of the	Voluntary- to provide clarification in order to avoid delays	Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare

			ingredients (names or chemical compounds, chemical names and international index numbers of the colors, etc.) be attached to each shipment in order to expedite import procedures		
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## SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE (S)

(see “purpose” column above)

## SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE (S)

(see matrix above for attestations required. See appendix 1 for examples of documents)

## SECTION IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE'S LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

- a. The original should accompany the product at the time of entry for all except for numbers 7,12, and 13 above. For these, a copy is permitted but it must accompany the product at the time of entry.
- b. For most certificates listed above the certificate cannot be applied to multiple shipments. The possible exceptions are numbers 7,12 and 13.
- c. For numbers 1, 12 and 13 above, Japan will accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance.

## APPENDIX I. ELECTRONIC COPY OR OUTLINE OF EACH EXPORT CERTIFICATE.

## Certificate Number 1-Notification Form for Importation of Foods, etc.

Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Esq.

Name and address of importer (Or name of importing corporation and its address)

Notification Receipt Number	*1	Name	
Classification of Notification	Prior Notification / Planned Import	Address	
Code of Importer		(Telephone Number)	
Name and Code of Country of Production		Registration Number of Importer Responsible for Food Sanitation	
Name, Address and Code of Manufacturer			
Name, Address and Code of Manufacturing Factory			
Name and Code of Port of Loading		Date of Loading	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
Name and Code of Port of Discharge		Date of Arrival	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
Name and Code of Warehouse		Date of Storage	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
		Date of Notification	____(Month) ____ (Day) ____ (Year)
Marks and Numbers of Cargo		Accident Brief Explanation (if Yes)	Yes / No
Ship Name or Flight Number of Aircraft		Name and Code of Submitter	

1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y • N	Sanitary Certificate Number	
Item Code					If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes.	
Description of Article					If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.	
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)						
Shipped Volume (Weight )			kg			
Usage and its Code					If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives.	*2
Kind of Package and its Code					If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as flavoring agents are excluded for either case.)	*2
Registration Number 1						
Registration Number 2						
Registration Number 3						
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.						
Remarks						Stamp for Receiving Notification

## Notes:

\*1: Do not write here.

\*2: When the article in the cargo includes food additives that are generally supplied in food or drink and regulated by the relevant statutes, describe the names of the substances used. When the article includes manufacturing agents in the additives, excluding flavoring agents or food additives that are generally supplied in food or drink, write the names of the agents.

The seal of importer can be substituted by a signature of importer.

1	Classification of Cargo	Food / Food Additive / Apparatus / Container-Package/ Toy	Continuous Import	Y • N	Sanitary Certificate Number														
Item Code						If the cargo includes processed food, describe its ingredients and their codes. If the cargo includes apparatuses, container/packages or toys, describe the raw materials and their codes.													
Description of Article																			
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)																			
Shipped Volume (Weight )		kg																	
Usage and its Code						If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as flavoring agents are excluded for either case.)													
Kind of Package and its Code																			
Registration Number 1																			
Registration Number 2																			
Registration Number 3																			
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.																			
Remarks																Stamp for Receiving Notification			

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Description of Article																			
Shipped Volume (Number of Units)																			
Shipped Volume (Weight )		kg																	
Usage and its Code						If the cargo includes food with additives, describe the names and codes of additives. If the cargo includes manufacturing agents in the additives, describe the names and codes of additives. (Additives used as flavoring agents are excluded for either case.)													
Kind of Package and its Code																			
Registration Number 1																			
Registration Number 2																			
Registration Number 3																			
If the cargo includes processed food, describe the method of manufacturing or processing, and its code.																			
Remarks																Stamp for Receiving Notification			

**Certificate Number 2 - Attestation to the Absence of Noxious Insects**

Plant Quarantine Inspection Certificate, to be issued by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Note: Ports, equipped with plant quarantine facilities and equipment, are designated as ports of entry for plants.

**Certificate Number 3 - Attestation to the Absence of a Risk For The Spread of an Infectious Disease**

Form FSIS 9060-5, Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness, to be issued by USDA Food Safety Inspection Service

**Certificate Number 4 - Beef Export Verification Program Attestation**

Form FSIS 9060-5 as listed above, but with extra attestation concerning EV program and AMS letter. There is a very strict and detailed set of regulations for exporting these types of products so please do not rely on this report alone. For more information please start by visiting the following websites:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/evjapan.htm>

and

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/ExportChecklist/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/ExportChecklist/index.asp)

**Certificate Number 5 - TM-11**

Sample of certificate available online at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/NOP/TradeIssues/exportcertificate.pdf>

Must also have the words "Products covered under this export certificate are not known to be produced with alkali-extracted humic acid, lignin sulfonate and potassium bicarbonate."

And must be issued by accredited certifying agent of the USDA National Organic Program.

For more information go to:

[http://www.maff.go.jp/soshiki/syokuhin/hinshitu/e\\_label/index.htm](http://www.maff.go.jp/soshiki/syokuhin/hinshitu/e_label/index.htm)

**Certificate Number 6 - Report of Payment for Importation of Rice, etc**

This is actually an import certificate and only applies to rice imported outside of the minimum access process. It is issued to the importer by the Japanese District Agriculture Office. It must show that secondary tariff duties were paid and show the imported volume, and be accompanied by invoices. No specific format.

**Certificate Number 7 - Certification That Container Doesn't Contain Lead**

This requirement is a result of rice bags with lead levels that violated the Japanese regulations in 2002. No special format is specified.

**Certificate Number 8 – Certificate of Prot Clearance and Tuna Export Certificate**



Attestation against illegal fishing operations in the high seas and against illegal fishing trade. No special format specified, but should be issued by competent government authority in exporting country.

#### **Certificate Number 9 - Phytosanitary Health Certificate**

Required for countries with active cholera outbreaks

#### **Certificate Number 10 - Attestation of Compliance with the Washington Convention for Sturgeon Roe Trade**

No special format specified, however the export permit should be issued by the competent government agency of the exporting country. Other endangered species that are covered by CITES would also require this certificate, however these are not listed as they are not generally traded food items.

#### **Certificate Number 11- Import License / Import Quota for Edible Seaweed**

This is really an application for an import license/quota, in accordance with Article 2-1-1-b of the Regulations for Control of Import (Ordinance of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of 1949, No. 77). Each shipment must be accompanied by 2 copies of the "Application for Import License / Import Quota", along with other documents required, to the Trade Licensing Division, Trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The items subject to the import quota system vary from time to time. They are listed in the "Import Notice" tables in the bulletins published by Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

##### **1] Import quota application in duplicate**

This is a document that an importer under Article 2-1-1-b of the Regulations for Control of Import (Ordinance of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of 1949, No. 77) is required to submit for being allocated an import quota. The original will be issued to the importer and the copy will be kept by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as a memorandum.

In addition to the application, two other sets of documents are required:

##### **2] The original and a copy of the import contract**

This is to certify the importer's intention to import. The original will be returned to the importer immediately after confirmation and the copy will be kept by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

3] A document certifying that the importer undergoes import clearance in his own name and at his own risk, and the following two documents. These documents are necessary in order to examine if a corporation or an individual has the intention and ability to import and if the same company is not making double application.

##### **3]-1 Accompanying document 1**

(In the case of a listed company)

\*Securities report of the last one year

(In the case of other corporations)

\*Certified copy of the commercial register of the corporation

\*Certified copy of the real estate register or a copy of lease contract

(In the case of individual)

\*Certificate of residence, national health insurance card, driving license, etc.



The above document is to certify that the corporation is actually in existence and engaged in business.

3]-2 Accompanying document 2

(In the case of corporations)

\*A copy of the attached list 1 of the final income tax return submitted to the tax office (stamped with the seal of the tax office or certified by the tax office) (In the case of individuals)

\*Final income tax return, etc.

(Or a withholding slip, etc. in the case of an individual who quit the company this year and started business as a proprietor)

When a person, who was allotted an import quota, imports the goods for which the quota was allotted, he has to pay for the goods. The above document is to certify that the person has the ability to pay.

### **Certificate Number 12 – Information on New Products Imported for the First Time**

There is no specific format for this information. Typical information that is needed includes a list of all ingredients, including additives, and a diagram or description of the manufacturing process. It is best to work with the importer to determine exactly what kind of information is required.

### **Certificate Number 13 – Certificate Indicating Ingredients in Detail**

This is not required, nor is there a special format for this information. It is merely recommended that if not already indicated on the product label or other shipping documents, the exporter should be sure to provide detailed information about ingredients, additives, preservatives, coloring, spices and flavorings. This may help prevent delays at the border.

### **Other Regulations**

Apart from Export Certificates, products being imported into Japan must also meet a number of other requirements. Details of these requirements are contained in the Food and Agriculture Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report updated each year by this office. The most recent update was last updated in October 2006. The report can be downloaded on the FAS website by conducting a search for report number JA6046 at the following website: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>

**This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Tokyo, Japan for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in preparation of the report, information provided may no longer be complete or precise as some import requirements are subject to frequent changes. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters ensure that all necessary customs clearance requirements have been verified with local authorities through your foreign importer before the sales conditions are finalized. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

Please contact OAA/FAS/Tokyo at [agtokyo@usda.gov](mailto:agtokyo@usda.gov) if you have any comments, corrections or suggestions.

